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 ESTATE OF MARIO SOLIS, by and through successor in interest, Sara Solis; SARA SOLIS, individually

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ESTATE OF MARIO SOLIS, by and
 through successor in interest, Sara
 Solis; SARA SOLIS, individually,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, a public
 entity; RIVERSIDE COUNTY
 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT;
 SHERIFF CHAD BIANCO, in his
 individual and official capacities;
 EDWARD DELGADO; JAMES
 KRACHMER; DAVID HOLM; and
 DOES 1 through 10, individually,
 jointly and severally,

Defendants.

CASE NO.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

1. Failure to Protect from Harm, Fourteenth Amendment Violation (42 U.S.C. § 1983);
2. Failure to Provide Medical Care, Fourteenth Amendment Violation (42 U.S.C. § 1983);
3. Deprivation of the Right to Familial Relationship with Decedent (42 U.S.C. § 1983);
4. Policies, Customs, Practices Causing Constitutional Violations (*Monell*, 42 U.S.C. § 1983);
5. Supervisory Liability Causing Constitutional Violations (Failure to Properly Train, Supervise and Discipline, 42 U.S.C. § 1983);
6. Negligence – Wrongful Death;
7. Negligence – Medical Malpractice;
8. Violation of California Government Code §845.6;
9. Violation of California Civil Code §52.1 (Tom Bane Act);
10. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress;
11. Declaratory Relief (28 U.S.C. § 2201)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

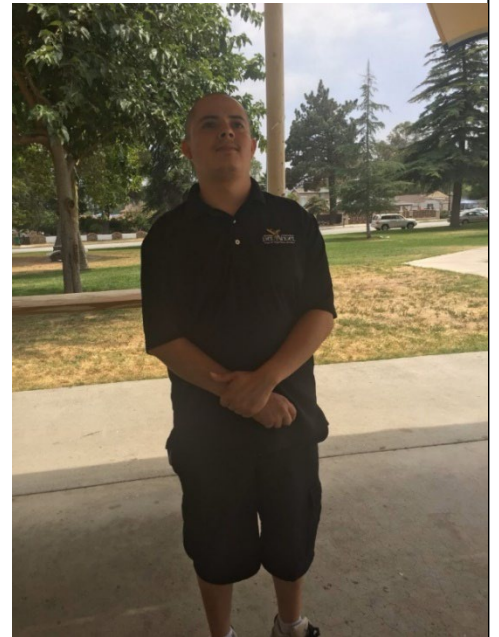
COME NOW Plaintiffs ESTATE OF MARIO SOLIS, by and through successor in interest, Sara Solis; and SARA SOLIS, individually, and allege as follows:

I.

INTRODUCTION

1. This civil rights action seeks to establish the true and unequivocal facts surrounding the in-custody death of pretrial detainee Mario Solis at the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Cois M. Byrd Detention Center on September 3, 2022. This action also seeks to bring to public light the deliberate disregard for safety and protection carried out by the individual defendants in the present action.

2. Mario Solis was the loving son of Sara Solis, and the caring brother to his four (4) siblings. He is described by his family as being very affectionate and attentive to his family's needs. Sara tenderly recalls Mario helping her put her shoes on in the mornings and kissing her goodbye before her workday began. In the evenings, Mario always made sure to check-in with her: "*¿Cómo te fue? ¿Quieres algo? Descansa, madre. Te amo.*"¹ To this day, Sara regrets not being able to say goodbye to her beloved son and is haunted by the fact that for six (6) whole days she was not aware that her dear son had passed away. This, due to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's delay in notifying the family. Mario's death has been a profound and unimaginable loss to his family. At the time of Mario's death, he left behind his mother and his four (4) siblings. Mario was only 31 years old when he passed away.



¹ English translation: "How did it go? Do you want something? Rest, mother. I love you."

1 3. In 2022, eighteen (18) individuals died while incarcerated at the
2 Riverside County Jails, the highest number for the County in the last fifteen (15)
3 years. In response to these alarming numbers, the California Department of Justice
4 launched an investigation into the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's
5 unconstitutional patterns and practices resulting in the record-breaking in-custody
6 deaths. The raw data and the per capita data make clear that the Riverside County
7 Jails are a death sentence for any pretrial detainee.

8 4. Long before Mario Solis's death, each of the individually named
9 defendants from the County of Riverside and the Riverside County Sheriff's
10 Department knew that there existed a great indifference to the safety and protection
11 of the inmates who were in the government's custody within the Riverside County
12 correctional facilities, including Cois M. Byrd Detention Center, Robert Presley
13 Detention Center, Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility, John J. Benoit Detention
14 Center and the Blythe Jail.

15 5. The individuals named in the present lawsuit were repeatedly put on
16 notice of the great dangers which existed within the Riverside County correctional
17 facilities through the long history of in-custody deaths; the record-breaking amount of
18 fentanyl overdoses throughout all Riverside County correctional facilities; the federal
19 class action *Quinton Gray, et al. v. County of Riverside*, case number 13-0444 VAP
20 (OPx) (C.D. Cal.)(hereinafter the "*Gray Class Action*") targeting the Riverside
21 County Sheriff's Department custody, medical and mental health staff's deliberate
22 indifference to the safety and protection of inmates; the warnings from neutrally-
23 selected experts regarding the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's custody and
24 medical staff's failures amounting to constitutional violations; a court ordered
25 Consent Decree directing the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to implement a
26 Remedial Plan to meet the minimum level of health care necessary to fulfill the
27 Riverside County Sheriff's Department's obligations under the Eighth and Fourteenth
28 Amendments; and through a voluntarily entered Settlement Agreement which

1 required that the Riverside County Sheriff's Department remedy all of the
2 deficiencies addressed in the *Gray* class action.

3 6. Despite this long history of complete disregard to inmate safety and
4 protection, each of the individually named defendants in this lawsuit deliberately
5 failed to take even modest actions to prevent in-custody deaths at the Riverside
6 County correctional facilities. Thus, by the time Mario Solis was taken into custody
7 and placed at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center, the jail was infested with endemic,
8 ongoing and unabated risks of injury or death to inmates – risks which indeed
9 resulted in Mario Solis's death on September 3, 2022.

10 II.

11 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12 7. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988, and the
13 Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and the laws
14 and Constitution of the State of California. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court
15 by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

16 8. This Court has the authority to grant the requested declaratory relief
17 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, as well as Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 57,
18 including pursuant to the Court's inherent equitable powers.

19 9. Venue is proper within the Central District of California pursuant to 28
20 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (2) because all Defendants reside within this district and the
21 events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred within this district.

22 III.

23 PENDANT CLAIMS

24 10. Plaintiffs have complied with the California Tort Claims Act
25 requirements with respect to their claims arising under state law.

26 11. With respect to these supplemental state claims, Plaintiffs request that
27 this Court exercise supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over such
28

1 claims as they arise from the same facts and circumstances which underlie the federal
2 claims.

3 IV.

4 PARTIES

5 A. Plaintiffs

6 12. Decedent Mario Solis was 31 years old when he passed away on
7 September 3, 2022. He was a brother to his four (4) siblings and the natural born son
8 of Sara Solis. At the time of his death, he was a pretrial detainee who resided in the
9 County of Riverside, California. The claims made by Plaintiff ESTATE OF MARIO
10 SOLIS, are brought by the successor in interest, Sara Solis.

11 13. Plaintiff SARA SOLIS, is and was, at all times relevant hereto, the
12 natural mother of decedent Mario Solis, and at all times relevant hereto was a resident
13 of the County of Riverside, California. Plaintiff brings these claims pursuant to
14 California Code of Civil Procedure §§ 377.20 et seq. and 377.60 et seq., which
15 provide for survival and wrongful death actions. Plaintiff also brings her claims
16 individually and on behalf of decedent Mario Solis on the basis of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983
17 and 1988, the United States Constitution, federal and state civil rights law and
18 California law. Plaintiff also brings these claims as a Private Attorney General, to
19 vindicate not only her rights, but others' civil rights of great importance.

20 B. Defendants

21 14. Defendant COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE (hereinafter also "COUNTY")
22 owns, operates, manages, directs and controls Defendant RIVERSIDE COUNTY
23 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (hereinafter also "RCSD"), also a separate public
24 entity, which employs other Doe Defendants in this action. At all times relevant to the
25 facts alleged herein, Defendant COUNTY was responsible for assuring that the
26 actions, omissions, policies, procedures, practices and customs of its employees,
27 including RCSD employees and the Correctional Health Services (hereinafter also
28 "CHS") employees, complied with the laws and the Constitutions of the United States

1 and of the State of California. Defendant COUNTY, through RCSD and CHS, is and
2 was responsible for ensuring the protection and safety of all persons incarcerated at
3 the RCSD correctional facilities, including the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center
4 (hereinafter “CBDC”), Robert Presley Detention Center (hereinafter “RBDC”), Larry
5 D. Smith Correctional Facility (hereinafter “LSCF”), John J. Benoit Detention Center
6 (hereinafter “JBDC”), and the Blythe Jail (hereinafter collectively “COUNTY Jails”).

7 15. Defendant CHAD BIANCO (“SHERIFF BIANCO”), at all times
8 mentioned herein, is and, since November 6, 2018, has been the Sheriff-Coroner of
9 Defendant COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, the highest position in the COUNTY Jails.
10 As Sheriff, Defendant BIANCO is and was responsible for the hiring, screening,
11 training, retention, supervision, discipline, counseling, and control of all COUNTY
12 Jails’ employees and/or agents. Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO is and was charged by
13 law with oversight and administration of the COUNTY Jails, including ensuring the
14 safety of the inmates housed therein. Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO also is and was
15 responsible for the promulgation of the policies and procedures and allowance of the
16 practices/customs pursuant to which the acts of the COUNTY Jails alleged herein
17 were committed. Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO is being sued in his individual and
18 official capacities.

19 16. Defendant EDWARD DELGADO (“DELGADO”), at all times
20 mentioned herein, was employed by Defendant COUNTY as the Corrections
21 Assistant Chief of the COUNTY Jails, including the CBDC, for the COUNTY, and
22 he was acting within the course and scope of that employment. In that capacity,
23 Defendant DELGADO was a policy making official for the COUNTY OF
24 RIVERSIDE. During the relevant time period, Defendant DELGADO was
25 responsible for the general management and control of the COUNTY Corrections
26 Operations, with primary authority and responsibility for the operations, staff
27 assignments, program development, personnel supervision and training, maintenance
28

1 and auxiliary inmate services at the jail, subordinate only to the Sheriff and/or
2 Undersheriff. Defendant DELGADO is being sued in his individual capacity.

3 17. Defendant JAMES KRACHMER (“KRACHMER”), at all times
4 mentioned herein, was employed by Defendant COUNTY as the Corrections Chief
5 Deputy of the COUNTY Jails, including the CBDC, for the COUNTY, and he was
6 acting within the course and scope of that employment. In that capacity, Defendant
7 KRACHMER was a policy making official for the COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE.
8 During the relevant time period, Defendant KRACHMER was responsible for the
9 general management and control of the COUNTY Corrections Operations, with
10 primary authority and responsibility for the operations, staff assignments, program
11 development, personnel supervision and training, maintenance and auxiliary inmate
12 services at the jail, subordinate to the Corrections Assistant Chief, Defendant
13 EDWARD DELGADO. Defendant KRACHMER is being sued in his individual
14 capacity.

15 18. Defendant DAVID HOLM (hereinafter also “HOLM”) is and was at all
16 times relevant herein the Corrections Captain at CBDC, one of the highest-level
17 supervisory positions. During the relevant time period, Defendant HOLM was the
18 Corrections Captain at CBDC, and was primarily responsible for assisting the Sheriff-
19 Coroner with oversight and administration of the CBDC, including ensuring the
20 safety of the inmates housed therein. As Corrections Captain, Defendant HOLM was
21 responsible for supervision of RCSD and CHC employees and/or agents at the
22 CBDC, and for the promulgation of the policies and procedures and allowance of the
23 practices/customs pursuant to which the acts of the RCSD and CHC’s employees
24 alleged herein were committed. Defendant HOLM also directly supervised Defendant
25 DOES 9 and 10. Defendant HOLM is being sued in his individual capacity.

26 19. Defendants COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY
27 SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT, SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER and
28 HOLM will hereinafter be referred to as the COUNTY DEFENDANTS.

1 20. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of Defendants
2 DOES 1 through 10 (“DOE Defendants”) and therefore sue these Defendants by such
3 fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that each
4 Defendant so named is responsible in some manner for the injuries and damages
5 sustained by Plaintiffs as set forth herein. Plaintiffs will amend their complaint to state
6 the names and capacities of each DOE Defendant when they have been ascertained.

7 21. The identities, capacities, and/or nature of involvement of the defendants
8 sued as DOES 1 through 10 are presently unknown to the Plaintiffs who therefore sue
9 these defendants by fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed, believe, and thereupon
10 allege that DOES 1 through 10 include individual law enforcement personnel and
11 medical personnel employed by the RCSD and the COUNTY Correctional Health
12 Services, and that they were involved in some manner and are legally responsible for
13 the wrongful acts and conduct alleged herein. Plaintiffs will amend this complaint to
14 substitute the DOE Defendants’ true names and capacities when they have been
15 ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed, believe, and thereupon allege that each DOE
16 defendant is a resident of California. Upon information and belief, DOES 1 through 10
17 were and still are residents of the County of Riverside, California. DOES 1 through 10
18 are sued in both their individual and official capacities.

19 22. At all relevant times, DOES 7 and 8 were managerial, supervisory,
20 training, and/or policymaking employees of Defendant COUNTY Correctional Health
21 Services. At the time of the incident, DOES 7 and 8 were acting under color of law
22 within the course and scope of their duties as employees for the COUNTY
23 Correctional Health Services. They had supervisory authority over DOES 1-10, and
24 the COUNTY Correctional Health Services employees at the COUNTY Jails. DOES 7
25 and 8 were acting with the complete authority and ratification of their principal,
26 Defendant COUNTY.

27 23. At all relevant times, DOES 9 and 10 were managerial, supervisory,
28 training, and/or policymaking employees of Defendant COUNTY. At the time of the

1 incident, DOES 9 and 10 were acting under color of law within the course and scope of
2 their duties as employees for the RCSD and/or the COUNTY. They had supervisorial
3 authority over DOES 1-10, and the employees of the RCSD. DOES 9 and 10 were
4 acting with the complete authority and ratification of their principal, Defendant
5 COUNTY.

6 24. Each of the defendants, including the DOE defendants, caused, and is
7 responsible for, the unlawful conduct and resulting injuries suffered by Plaintiffs by,
8 among other things, personally participating in the unlawful conduct, acting jointly,
9 or conspiring with others who did so; by ordering, authorizing, acquiescing in, or
10 setting in motion policies, plans, or actions that led to the unlawful conduct, by
11 failing to take action to prevent the unlawful conduct; by failing and refusing to
12 initiate and maintain adequate training and supervision; by failing to enact policies to
13 address the constitutional rights of protesters despite the obvious need for such a
14 policy; and by ratifying the unlawful conduct that occurred by agents and officers
15 under their direction and control, including failing to take remedial or disciplinary
16 action.

17 25. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that each of the
18 Defendants was at all material times an agent, servant, employee, partner, joint
19 venturer, co-conspirator, and/or alter ego of the remaining Defendants, and in doing the
20 things herein alleged, was acting within the course and scope of that relationship.
21 Plaintiffs are further informed and believe and thereon allege that each of the
22 Defendants herein gave consent, aid, and assistance to each of the remaining
23 Defendants, and ratified and/or authorized the acts or omissions of each Defendant as
24 alleged herein, except as may be hereinafter specifically alleged. At all material times,
25 each Defendant was jointly engaged in tortious activity and an integral participant in
26 the conduct described herein, resulting in the deprivation of Plaintiffs' and decedent
27 Mario Solis's constitutional rights and other harm.

28 ///

1 33. On or about August 11, 2022, Mr. Solis underwent another mental health
2 evaluation and was rated “severe.” He was then transferred to the Riverside County
3 Sheriff’s Department, Cois Byrd Detention Center, located at 30755-B, Auld Rd,
4 Murrieta, California 92563, for safety cell placement (*i.e.*, cells intended for acutely
5 suicidal inmates). Safety cells require heightened supervision and monitoring by
6 custody, medical and mental health staff. Safety cells are further maintained in such
7 a way where any potential hazard (e.g., bedsheet, sharp object) is removed from the
8 cells so as to prevent suicides by hanging, cutting, and asphyxiation.

9 34. On September 3, 2022, at approximately 12:58 a.m., Mr. Solis was
10 found unresponsive in his cell. He had ingested multiple foreign objects, including a
11 pencil, toothbrush, and two plastic bags with soap.

12 35. Upon information and belief, COUNTY medical and custody staff had
13 an opportunity to observe the clear signs of Mr. Solis’s acute suicidality. The toilet in
14 his safety cell was overflowing, saturating all of his belongings with filthy toilet
15 water. He had ligature marks on his neck. His forearms displayed healed scars from
16 cutting, and both of his wrists had fresh horizontal cuts also from cutting. Despite
17 these alarming signs, the COUNTY medical and custody staff were indifferent to Mr.
18 Solis’s health and safety.

19 36. Mr. Solis did not respond to life-saving measures as he had been dead
20 for an appreciable amount of time due to his right jugular vein being punctured by the
21 pencil he managed to ingest while in a safety cell. He was ultimately pronounced
22 dead at 1:39 a.m.

23 37. Upon information and belief, due to the COUNTY Jails patterns and
24 practices of not conducting proper and timely Title 15 welfare and safety checks,
25 Mario Solis’s dire need for emergency medical intervention went unnoticed by the
26 CBDC custody, medical and mental health staff, who were responsible for
27 monitoring and ensuring the welfare of all inmates, including Mario Solis.

28 ///

38. Mario Solis was thirty-one years old when he died on September 3, 2022 while he was in custody at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center. It was not until September 9, 2022, six days after Mr. Solis had died, that his family was notified about his death.

39. Mario Solis was a pretrial detainee, and therefore, innocent until proven guilty.

40. Plaintiffs timely and properly filed tort claims with the County of Riverside pursuant to California Government Code sections 910, *et seq.*, and this action is timely filed within all applicable statutes of limitation.

41. This complaint may be pled in the alternative pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(d).

VI.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO *MONELL* AND SUPERVISORIAL CAUSES OF ACTION

42. Based upon the principles established in *Monell v. Dep't of Soc. Servs. of City of New York*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978), Defendants are liable for all injuries sustained by Plaintiffs as set forth herein. To establish municipal liability under *Monell v. Dep't of Soc. Servs. of City of New York*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978), a plaintiff must prove: (1) that [the plaintiff] possessed a constitutional right of which she was deprived; (2) that the municipality had a policy/custom/practice; (3) that this policy/custom/practice amounts to deliberate indifference to the plaintiff's constitutional right; and, (4) that the policy/custom/practice is the moving force behind the constitutional violation. *Dougherty v. City of Covina*, 654 F.3d 892, 900 (9th Cir, 2011). The policy/custom/practice "need only cause the constitutional violation; it need not be unconstitutional per se." *Chew v. Gates*, 27 F.3d 1432, 1444 (9th Cir. 1994). Recognized paths to *Monell* liability include: (1) an unconstitutional custom, practice or policy behind the violation of rights; (2) a deliberately indifferent omission, such as a failure to train or failure to have a needed policy; and (3) a final policy-maker's

1 involvement in or ratification of the conduct underlying the violation of rights.

2 *Clouthier v. County of Contra Costa*, 591 F.3d 1232, 1249-1250 (9th Cir. 2010).

3 **A. The COUNTY Jails Experienced Their Deadliest Year in 2022.**

4 43. In 2022, Defendant RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S
5 DEPARTMENT'S COUNTY Jails have resulted in eighteen (18) in-custody deaths.
6 Prior to 2022, Riverside County had not logged more than twelve (12) such deaths in
7 any year since 2005.²

8 44. Mario Solis's death is one of eighteen (18) in-custody deaths within the
9 COUNTY Jails during the 2022 calendar year, and was the twelfth death that year:

- 10 a. Alicia Upton (Date of Loss: April 28, 2022; Manner of Death:
11 "Suicide")
- 12 b. Abel Valencia Cruz (Date of Loss: May 1, 2022; Manner of Death:
13 "Natural")
- 14 c. Justin Kail (Date of Loss: May 17, 2022; Manner of Death:
15 "Accident-Overdose")
- 16 d. Brawn Lamar Hampton (Date of Loss: May 26, 2022; Manner of Death:
17 "Natural")
- 18 e. Michael Vasquez (Date of Loss: May 26, 2022; Manner of Death:
19 "Accident-Overdose")³
- 20 f. Yareth Villagomez (Date of Loss: June 20, 2022; Manner of Death:
21 "Accident-Overdose")
- 22 g. Richard Edward Biscotti (Date of Loss: July 11, 2022; Manner of Death:
23 "Natural")

24
25 ² See State of California Department of Justice Press Release: "Attorney General Bonta Launches
26 Civil Rights Investigation into Riverside County Sheriff's Office," February 23, 2023, available at
27 <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-launches-civil-rights-investigation-riverside-county>

28 ³ Pretrial detainee Michael Vasquez was just 20 years old at the time of his death. He had been in the facility for only six days prior to being exposed to the dangers and risks permeating the CBDC, all of which ultimately resulted in his death.

- h. Richard Matus Jr. (Date of Loss: August 11, 2022; Manner of Death: “Accident-Overdose”)
- i. Abel Anthony Chacon (Date of Loss: August 25, 2022; Manner of Death: “Accident-Overdose”)
- j. Octavio Zazueta (Date of Loss: August 26, 2022; Manner of Death: “Accident-Overdose”)
- k. Gary Roy Haneline (Date of Loss: August 27, 2022; Manner of Death: “Natural”)
- l. Mario Solis (Date of Loss: September 3, 2022; Manner of Death: “Accident”)⁴
- m. Kaushal Niroula (Date of Loss: September 6, 2022; Manner of Death: “Strangulation”)⁵
- n. Robert Louis Robinson (Date of Loss: September 7, 2022; Manner of Death: “Suicide/Hanging”)
- o. Ulyses Munoz Ayala (Date of Loss: September 29, 2022; Manner of Death: “Homicide Willful”)⁶

⁴ Notably, while the COUNTY DEFENDANTS have reported to the Department of Justice that pretrial detainee Mario Solis’ death was an “accident,” what is known through the Coroner’s Investigative Narrative and Autopsy Report is that Mr. Solis was indeed in a safety cell (*i.e.*, cells intended for suicidal inmates) an ingested multiple foreign objects, including a pencil, toothbrush, and plastic bags with soap. Mr. Solis ultimately died due to the pencil puncturing his right jugular vein. Upon information and belief, the COUNTY DEFENDANTS have attempted to classify this death as an “accident” in an effort to absolve themselves from liability arising from a *suicidal* pretrial detainee who is housed in a safety cell, but is nevertheless able to access such hazardous objects to commit suicide. What is more is that Mr. Solis’ family was not notified about his death until six (6) days had passed.

⁵ Decedent Kaushal Niroula was a transgender HIV-positive female inmate, who was brutally and repeatedly beaten and strangled by her cellmate, Ronald Sanchez—a convicted sex offender. Ms. Niroula was killed just three days before trial. Upon information and belief, Ms. Niroula had been assisting state and federal authorities to help uncover the illegal wiretapping at the COUNTY Jails.

⁶ Pretrial detainee Ulyses Munoz Ayala was brutally killed by a *known* violent inmate, Erik Martinez, whom he was forced to share a cell with. See “Corona Man Killed In Riverside County Jail Cell” (The Sun, September 30, 2022), available at <https://www.sbsun.com/2022/09/30/corona-man-killed-in-riverside-county-jail-cell/>

p. Cynthia Heredia (Date of Loss: October 13, 2022; Manner of Death: “Pending”)

q. Katie Patton (Date of Loss: November 20, 2022 Manner of Death: “Pending”)

r. Ronald Cook (Date of Loss: December 12, 2022 Manner of Death: “Pending”)

45. The deaths include six (6) overdoses, two (2) homicides resulting from inmate-on-inmate violence, three (3) suicides, four (4) natural cause deaths, and three (3) pending. Seven (7) of the in-custody deaths have occurred at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center in Murrieta, California.

46. The Defendants’ deliberate indifference towards protecting pretrial detainees from hazards resulted in illegal drugs permeating the COUNTY Jails. According to Defendant KRACHMER, from November 2021 through November 2022, the COUNTY Jails experienced 140 overdoses, with inmates overdosing at least twice a week within the COUNTY Jails.⁷

47. The Defendants’ deliberate indifference towards protecting pretrial detainees from hazards resulted in illegal drugs permeating the COUNTY Jails. According to Defendant KRACHMER, from November 2021 through November 2022, the COUNTY Jails experienced 140 overdoses, with inmates overdosing at least twice a week within the COUNTY Jails.⁸

48. The Defendants’ deliberate indifference towards pretrial detainees suffering from mental health issues resulted in several completed and attempted

⁷ See “Families Question Suspected Fentanyl Deaths of Loved Ones Behind Bars; Riverside Co. Sheriff Reacts” (Fox11 News, November 7, 2022), available at <https://www.foxla.com/news/fentanyl-responsible-for-a-third-of-riverside-county-jail-deaths-in-2022-families-demand-answers>

⁸ See “Families Question Suspected Fentanyl Deaths of Loved Ones Behind Bars; Riverside Co. Sheriff Reacts” (Fox11 News, November 7, 2022), available at <https://www.foxla.com/news/fentanyl-responsible-for-a-third-of-riverside-county-jail-deaths-in-2022-families-demand-answers>

1 suicides. On November 23, 2022, pretrial detainee Charles Wall attempted suicide by
 2 jumping off the top tier of his housing module at RPDC. From November 19, 2022
 3 through November 23, 2022, Mr. Wall made repeated requests for psychiatric care
 4 and medication. Mr. Wall suffered from schizophrenia and suicidal ideations, which
 5 was known to the COUNTY custody and medical staff given his prior attempts to
 6 commit suicide at RPDC in 2015, as well as his extensive medical and mental health
 7 history. These requests were ignored by the custody and medical staff. On November
 8 23, 2022, Mr. Wall pled with a custody staffer, begging for an opportunity to speak
 9 with a psychiatrist. The custody staffer demanded to know why Mr. Wall needed to
 10 speak with a psychiatrist. When Mr. Wall hesitated, the custody staffer shouted, “Do
 11 what you gotta do! Stop pushing my fucking buttons or you’re gonna give me a
 12 reason to come in!” Shortly thereafter, Mr. Wall attempted suicide by jumping off the
 13 second story of his housing module.

14 **B. The COUNTY Jails Are On Track to Surpass the Number of In-Custody**
 15 **Deaths in 2023.**

16 49. Defendant RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT’S
 17 COUNTY Jails will have the deadliest year in 2023 – surpassing the eighteen (18) in-
 18 custody deaths from 2022.

19 50. As of May of 2023, the COUNTY has already claimed the lives of six
 20 (6) persons who died while in the custody of the COUNTY:

- 21 a. On January 12, 2023, pretrial detainee Mark Spratt died as a result of
 22 injuries he suffered during a brutal attack by his cellmate at CBDC. Mr.
 23 Spratt was only 24 years old at the time of his death.
- 24 b. On February 5, 2023, pretrial detainee Christian Viramontes was found
 25 unresponsive in his cell at RPDC. Upon information and belief, Mr.
 26 Viramontes’ death was caused by hazards permeating the RPDC. Mr.
 27 Spratt was only 26 years old at the time of his death. An investigation
 28 into the manner and means of death remains pending.

- 1 c. On February 6, 2023, pretrial detainee Jesus Rodriguez died in-custody
2 due to injuries suffered during an arrest. An investigation into the
3 manner and means of death remains pending.
- 4 d. On February 21, 2023, pretrial detainee Christian Drye died in-custody
5 at a COUNTY hospital due to injuries suffered during an arrest. An
6 investigation into the manner and means of death remains pending.
- 7 e. On March 11, 2023, an unidentified pretrial detainee was found
8 unresponsive in his cell at CBDC. Upon information and belief, the
9 death was caused by hazards permeating the CBDC. An investigation
10 into the manner and means of death remains pending.
- 11 f. On May 27, 2023, pretrial detainee Ruben Guzman died following an
12 undisclosed incident at JBDC. Upon information and belief, Mr.
13 Guzman received numerous threats to his life by inmates and custody
14 staff at the COUNTY Jails. Mr. Guzman was in fear of his life and
15 attempted suicide by jumping off of a top tier at the COUNTY Jails. Mr.
16 Guzman survived the attempted suicide and was told by custody staff:
17 “You should have gone headfirst.” Upon information and belief, Mr.
18 Guzman was found unresponsive in a holding cell on May 22, 2023. He
19 died four days later on May 27, 2023. An investigation into the manner
20 and means of death remains pending.

21 51. The Defendants’ deliberate indifference towards protecting pretrial
22 detainees from violence has resulted in numerous deaths and assaults at the
23 COUNTY Jails. Upon information and belief, this indifference has resulted in the
24 2022-2023 deaths of Kaushal Niroula, Ulyses Munoz Ayala Mark Spratt, and Ruben
25 Guzman, and the brutal sexual assault of a pretrial detainee in April of 2023 at the
26 COUNTY Jails.

27 ///

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C. RCSD Refuses to Comply with California Department Justice Mandates Regarding In-Custody Death Reporting Abating Transparency and Accountability.

52. Despite the record-braking in-custody deaths at the COUNTY Jails, and the suspicious circumstances surrounding the in-custody deaths, the COUNTY DEFENDANTS have refused to adhere to state mandates and regulations which were explicitly created to ensure accountability and transparency, including California Government Code section 12525⁹ and Title 15 Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities, section 1046 Death in Custody.¹⁰

53. The COUNTY DEFENDANTS have refused to comply with these mandates which were enacted to provide transparency and accountability when inmates and prisoners die in-custody within California correctional facilities.

54. The COUNTY DEFENDANTS reported some of the in-custody deaths six weeks after they occurred, despite the 10-day mandate.¹¹

55. The COUNTY DEFENDANTS provided inaccurate information to the Department of Justice, classifying the pretrial detainees, who had died in their custody as “sentenced” post-convicted prisoners.¹² Upon information and belief, this orchestrated misclassification of the pretrial status of the decedents was done

⁹ See Cal. Gov. Code § 12525 (“In any case in which a person dies while in the custody of any law enforcement agency or while in custody in a local or state correctional facility in this state, the law enforcement agency or the agency in charge of the correctional facility shall report in writing to the Attorney General/DOJ, within 10 days after the death, all facts in the possession of the law enforcement agency or agency in charge of the correctional facility concerning the death.”)

¹⁰ See Title 15 Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities, Section 1046 Death (“The facility administrator, in cooperation with the health administrator, shall develop written policy and procedures to ensure that there is an initial review of every in-custody death within 30 days. The review team shall include the facility administrator and/or the facility manager, the health administrator, the responsible physician and other health care and supervision staff who are relevant to the incident.”)

¹¹ See “Riverside Sheriff Failed to Report Inmate Deaths to State On time; Names of Dead Made Public” (Desert Sun, September 16, 2022), available at https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2022/09/16/riverside-county-sheriffs-failed-report-inmate-deaths-state-time/8017820001/

¹² *Id.*

purposely by the COUNTY DEFENDANTS so as to impose the Eighth Amendment higher degree of culpability standard, rather than the less stringent Fourteenth Amendment degree of culpability.¹³

D. California Department of Justice Launches Patterns and Practices Investigation into Recording Breaking In-Custody Deaths at the COUNTY Jails.

56. On February 23, 2023, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) announced its decision to launch a formal investigation into Defendant RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT's unconstitutional patterns and practices resulting in record-breaking in-custody deaths at the COUNTY Jails and the use of excessive force by sheriff's deputies, disproportionately affecting Latino and African American communities.¹⁴ The raw data and the per capita data make clear that the COUNTY Jails are a death sentence for any pretrial detainee, some of whom have died just days after being booked.¹⁵ For reference, San Diego County had 19 in-

¹³ Pretrial detainees are perceived as innocent under the eyes of the law. Because they are mere detainees who are simply awaiting their day in court, the Constitution mandates that additional protective measures be put in place to ensure that the detainees are not harmed while in the government's custody. More specifically, the 14th Amendment requires that correctional facilities not be deliberately indifferent towards the detainees' safety and protection. *See Gordon v. County of Orange*, 888 F.3d 1118 (9th Cir. 2018). Once an inmate has been formally convicted of a crime, they are deemed to be a post-conviction prisoner. While the Constitution too protects post-conviction prisoners, the 8th Amendment merely requires that the prisoners not be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment while in the government's custody. *See Castro v. County of Los Angeles*, 833 F.3d 1060 (9th Cir. 2016). The end result is that the legal standard under which a civil rights lawsuit is premised upon is much higher and more difficult to prove for a post-conviction prisoner (*i.e.*, subjective standard) rather than a pretrial detainee (*i.e.*, objective standard). Upon information and belief, the COUNTY DEFENDANTS purposely classified the pretrial detainees as inmates who had already been "sentenced" in an effort to make it merely impossible for the families to establish liability because of the heightened standard of culpability imposed on civil rights cases filed by post-conviction prisoners.

¹⁴ *See* State of California Department of Justice Press Release: "Attorney General Bonta Launches Civil Rights Investigation into Riverside County Sheriff's Office," February 23, 2023, available at <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-launches-civil-rights-investigation-riverside-county>

¹⁵ *Id.*

1 custody deaths in 2022, despite an average *daily* jail population of *500 more people*
 2 *than* Riverside County.

3 57. During the press conference, the California Attorney General Rob Bonta
 4 expressed his grave concerns with regard to Defendant RIVERSIDE COUNTY
 5 SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT: “All Californians deserve fairness and respect from the
 6 institutions that serve them [...]. When some communities don’t see or feel they are
 7 being treated equitably by law enforcement, it contributes to distrust and hurts public
 8 safety. Unfortunately, it is clear that — amid concerning levels of in-custody deaths
 9 and allegations of misconduct — too many families and communities in Riverside
 10 County are hurting and looking for answers. As part of my office’s ongoing efforts to
 11 support constitutional policing, the California Department of Justice is opening a civil
 12 rights investigation into the Riverside County Sheriff’s Office. Whether you have a
 13 loved one in jail or are worried about crime in your neighborhood, we all benefit
 14 when there is action to ensure the integrity of policing in our state.”

15 58. In response to the California Department of Justice’s civil rights
 16 investigation in the COUNTY Jails, SHERIFF BIANCO issued the following
 17 offensive statement illustrating indifference towards the lives lost in his jails: “This
 18 investigation is based on nothing but false, and misleading statements, and straight-
 19 out lies from activists, including their attorneys. This will prove to be a complete
 20 waste of time and resources.”¹⁶

21 **E. RCSD’s History of Indifference Towards Inmates Incarcerated at the**
 22 **COUNTY Jails.**

23 59. For well over a decade now, the COUNTY’s own Grand Jury, as well as
 24 several independent auditors, have come to the same conclusion: dangerous deficits
 25
 26

27 ¹⁶ See Riverside County Sheriff’s Department YouTube video titled: “Sheriff Bianco’s Response to
 28 Frivolous Civil Rights Investigation by DOL” (February 23, 2023), available at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ttMVVLyfaQ>

1 in health care services at the jails threaten the lives and health of the thousands of
2 men and women they hold.

3 60. The “2010-11 Grand Jury Report: Riverside County Detention Health
4 Care Administration” found systemic failures in treatment, medication management,
5 record-keeping, and administration of forced medications, among other areas.¹⁷

6 61. The Grand Jury released an updated report in June 2012, noting that
7 mental health staffing had in fact decreased since its prior year’s report.¹⁸

8 62. On March 8, 2023, the federal class action lawsuit *Quinton Gray, et al.*
9 *v. County of Riverside*, case number 13-0444 VAP (OPx) (C.D. Cal.) was filed
10 against Defendants COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE and RIVERSIDE COUNTY
11 SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT. The class action alleged that the COUNTY failed to
12 provide minimally adequate medical and mental health care to the people incarcerated
13 in its jails, in violation of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United
14 States Constitution. The class action also alleged discrimination against certain
15 inmates with disabilities in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and
16 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

17 63. The *Gray* operative complaint (Dkt. 150) alleged the following
18 unconstitutional patterns and practices permeating the COUNTY Jails:

- 19 a. RCSD, by policy and practice, maintains and runs a health care system
20 that lacks basic elements necessary to provide constitutional care;
- 21 b. RCSD, by policy and practice, systematically fails to identify and
22 diagnose serious conditions, to provide timely care, to administer
23 appropriate medications, to employ adequate staff to meet inmates’ basic
24 needs, to maintain records that allow informed treatment decisions, to

25 ¹⁷ See 2010-2011 Grand Jury Report re: Detention Mental Health Services, available at
26 https://rivco.org/sites/g/files/aldnop116/files/Past%20Reports%20%26%20Responses/2010-2011/11mentalhealth_detentionserv.pdf

27 ¹⁸ See 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report re: Detention Mental Health Services, available at
28 <https://rivco.org/sites/g/files/aldnop116/files/Past%20Reports%20%26%20Responses/2011-2012/12mentalhealthdetention.pdf>

1 establish legally required confidentiality, and to identify and correct its
2 own failings;

3 c. RCSD, by policy and practice, maintains and runs substandard
4 medication management and administration;

5 d. RCSD, by policy and practice, is severely understaffed at the COUNTY
6 Jails;

7 e. RCSD, by policy and practice, provides substandard medical care to
8 inmates;

9 f. RCSD, by policy and practice, provides substandard mental health care
10 to inmates;

11 64. On September 2, 2014, the Court granted Plaintiffs' Motion for Class
12 Certification.

13 65. On February 20, 2015, the parties agreed to hire neutral experts to
14 determine whether the health care provided at the COUNTY Jails posed a significant
15 risk of serious harm to inmates confined in the COUNTY Jails and, if so, to make
16 recommendations for improvements that will provide the minimum care guaranteed
17 by the United States Constitution.

18 66. On July 15, 2015, the neutrally-appointed experts issued reports,
19 determining that the health care failed to meet the constitutional minimum. As such,
20 the parties agreed to negotiate a Remedial Plan to address the identified deficiencies
21 in the expert reports.

22 67. Due to the COUNTY DEFENDANTS' ongoing failures to comply with
23 the Consent Decree, Plaintiffs in the *Gray* class action have had to seek emergency
24 relief from the Court to ensure that the Consent Decree is enforced.

25 **F. The County Defendants' Indifference to the Constitutional Violations and**
26 **Failures Permeating the COUNTY Jails Affecting Inmates with Mental**
27 **Health Issues.**

28 68. Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO the RCSD Corrections Supervisors

1 EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, and DAVID HOLM, through their
 2 supervision of the COUNTY's Correctional Health Services (hereinafter also "CHS")
 3 medical staff, were responsible for the provision of medical and mental health
 4 services at the COUNTY Jails, and as such, were responsible for the following at the
 5 COUNTY Jails:

- 6 a. Staffing for the jail's medical and mental health units;
- 7 b. Administrative structure, medical direction and operational oversight for
 8 the medical and mental health units;
- 9 c. Oversight of the day-to-day operations of the health services programs at
 10 the jail;
- 11 d. Design and implementation of a suicide prevention program, including
 12 the related policies and procedures to fully and safely carry out such
 13 program;
- 14 e. Development, implementation and revision policies and procedures
 15 which relate to the overall provision of mental health and medical
 16 services, including the operational aspects of such services and
 17 compliance with regulations and statutes;
- 18 f. Development, implementation and revision policies, procedures and
 19 practices for the training of custody, medical and mental health staff at
 20 the jail;
- 21 g. Identifying of all unsafe or unhealthy conditions within the jail facilities
 22 related to the provision of medical and mental health services, and
 23 proposing of corrective measures of such conditions in a timely manner;
- 24 h. Provide continuous training to detention staff regarding the screening of
 25 inmates, identification of mentally ill inmates, risk recognition, and
 26 suicide prevention.

27 69. Defendants COUNTY, RCSD, SHERIFF BIANCO the RCSD
 28 Corrections Supervisors EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, and DAVID

1 HOLM, and the COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff, and each of
2 them, had been on notice for years that their provision of medical and mental health
3 treatment to inmates at the COUNTY Jails was inadequate and resulted in needless
4 harm and death.

5 70. By the time that decedent Mario Solis was moved to CBDC for safety
6 cell placement, and was specifically housed within Unit #B, Cell #57, SHERIFF
7 BIANCO the RCSD Corrections Supervisors EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES
8 KRACHMER, and DAVID HOLM, and the COUNTY custody, medical and mental
9 health staff, and each of them, understood the jail cell where decedent Mario Solis
10 was housed on August 11, 2022 and until his death on September 3, 2022 was not
11 suitable for an inmate who exhibited clear signs of psychosis and suicidal ideations
12 because the jail cell contained suicide hazards and was unreasonably dangerous for
13 housing inmates with identified mental health concerns

14 71. Defendants COUNTY, RCSD, SHERIFF BIANCO the RCSD
15 Corrections Supervisors EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, and DAVID
16 HOLM, and the COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff, and each of
17 them, knew that placing decedent Mario Solis in such a jail cell would pose a
18 substantial risk of death. Prior to the death of decedent Mario Solis, other persons in
19 the custody of the COUNTY and supervised and cared for by the COUNTY medical
20 and custody staff had attempted suicide by similar, if not identical, means during their
21 incarcerations at the COUNTY Jails.

22 72. Defendants COUNTY, RCSD, SHERIFF BIANCO the RCSD
23 Corrections Supervisors EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, and DAVID
24 HOLM, and the COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff, and each of
25 them, were repeatedly put on notice of the great dangers which existed within the
26 COUNTY Jails through the long history of in-custody deaths; the record-breaking
27 amount of fentanyl overdoses throughout all COUNTY Jails; the federal class action
28 *Quinton Gray, et al. v. County of Riverside*, case number 13-0444 VAP (OPx) (C.D.

Cal.) targeting the COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff's deliberate indifference to the safety and protection of inmates; the warnings from neutrally-selected experts regarding the COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff's failures amounting to constitutional violations; a court ordered Consent Decree directing the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to implement a Remedial Plan to meet the minimum level of health care necessary to fulfill the COUNTY's obligations under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments; and through a voluntarily entered Settlement Agreement which required that the COUNTY remedy all of the deficiencies addressed in the *Gray* class action.

73. Based on the aforementioned, Defendants COUNTY, RCSD, SHERIFF BIANCO the RCSD Corrections Supervisors EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, and DAVID HOLM, and the COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff, and each of them, knew of the dangers that posed a risk to decedent Mario Solis's safety, yet disregarded these dangers resulting in his death.

G. Sheriff Bianco's Indifference to the Constitutional Violations and Failures Permeating His COUNTY Jails.

74. A County Sheriff, like SHERIFF BIANCO "may be held liable as a supervisor under § 1983 if there exists either (1) his or her personal involvement in the constitutional deprivation, or (2) a sufficient causal connection between the supervisor's wrongful conduct and the constitutional violation." *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1207 (9th Cir. 2011). This causal connection can exist either "by setting in motion a series of acts by others or by knowingly refusing to terminate a series of acts by others, which the supervisor knew or reasonably should have known would cause others to inflict a constitutional injury." *Id.* at 1207–08. Ninth Circuit has long held that a supervisor "need not be 'directly and personally involved in the same way as are the individual officers who are on the scene inflicting constitutional injury.'" *Id.* at 1205-06 (9th Cir. 2011), cert. den'd, 132 S. Ct. 2101 (2012) (quoting *Larez v. City of Los Angeles*, 946 F.2d 630, 645-46 (9th Cir. 1991)). "Rather, the supervisor's

1 participation could include his ‘own culpable action or inaction in the training,
 2 supervision, or control of his subordinates,’ ‘his acquiescence in the constitutional
 3 deprivations of which the complaint is made,’ or ‘conduct that showed a reckless or
 4 callous indifference to the rights of others.’” *Id.* “We have never required a plaintiff
 5 to allege that a supervisor was physically present when the injury occurred.” *Id.*

6 75. The endemic, ongoing and unabated risks of injury or death to inmates
 7 incarcerated in the COUNTY Jails are well established. SHERIFF BIANCO has long
 8 been aware of these risks and harms which have resulted in injury and death to
 9 inmates incarcerated in his COUNTY Jails. SHERIFF BIANCO’s failure to take
 10 action to ameliorate these conditions constitutes deliberate indifference to the safety
 11 and health of inmates incarcerated in his COUNTY Jails.

12 76. SHERIFF BIANCO has made several public statements all of which
 13 serve as illustrations of his great indifference towards the inmates, most of whom are
 14 pretrial detainees and innocent under the eyes of the law, who are in the
 15 government’s custody in his COUNTY Jails.

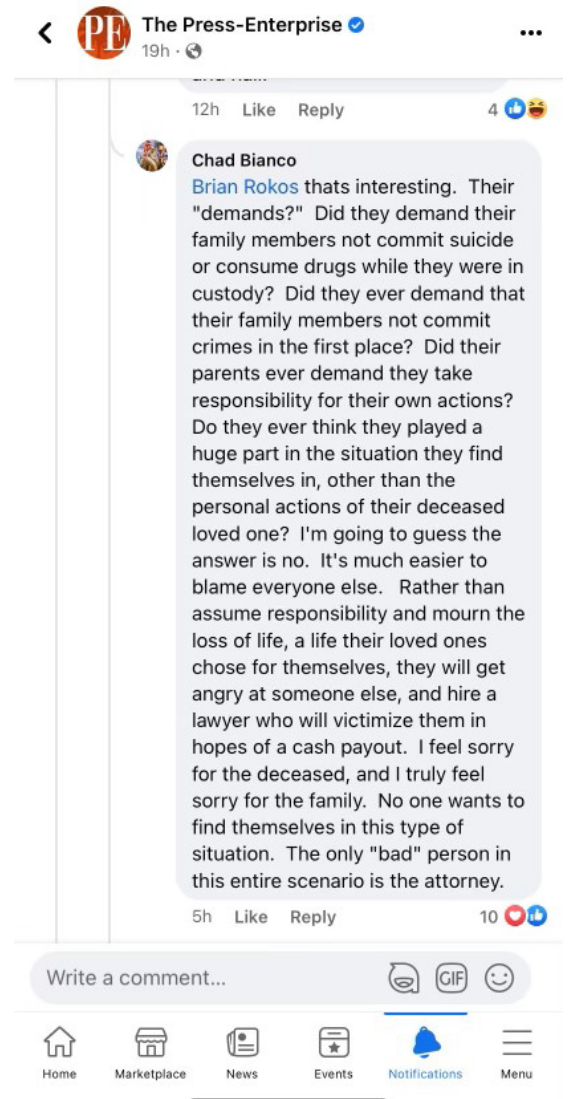
16 77. Despite the alarming trends in overdoses and in-custody deaths,
 17 SHERIFF BIANCO blames the decedents and their families for the in-custody deaths
 18 and overdoses in the COUNTY Jails – all of which are fully controlled and managed
 19 by him.

20 78. On September 16, 2022, The Press-Enterprise posted the article “Sheriff
 21 Explains How 13 Riverside County Inmates Died This Year” on Facebook with the
 22 following caption: “Less than an hour after the family of a man who died in jail
 23 publicly complained about a lack of information on his death and that of 12 other
 24 Riverside County inmates this year, Sheriff Chad Bianco explained how they died.”¹⁹

25
 26
 27 ¹⁹ See “Sheriff Explains How 13 Riverside County Inmates Died This Year” (The Press-Enterprise
 28 Facebook Page, September 16, 2022), available at:
<https://www.facebook.com/page/50855317267/search/?q=chad%20bianco%2013%20riverside%20county%20inmates%20died>

79. Within fourteen hours of article being posted on Facebook, SHERIFF BIANCO went on to publicly shame and harass the families and their deceased loved ones, posing the following offensive rhetorical questions to the Facebook community and calling the Matus family attorney, Christian Contreras, a “bad” person:²⁰

- (1) Did they demand that their family members not commit suicide or consume drugs while they were in custody?
- (2) Did they ever demand that their family members not commit crimes in the first place?
- (3) Did their parents ever demand they take responsibility for their own actions?
- (4) Do they ever think they played a huge part in the situation they find themselves in, other than the personal actions of their deceased loved one?



²⁰ Notably, SHERIFF BIANCO deleted the post thereafter. SHERIFF BIANCO did this despite the post being highly relevant and material to Plaintiffs’ supervisory claims against him. This is textbook definition of spoliation. Courts generally agree that the duty to preserve is triggered as soon as a potential claim is identified. *Apple Inc. v. Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.*, 888 F. Supp. 2d 976, 991 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (“duty to preserve material evidence arises not only during litigation but also extends to that period before the litigation when a party reasonably should know that the evidence may be relevant to anticipated litigation”); *Colonies Partners, L.P. v. County of San Bernardino*, 2020 WL 1496444, at *6-7 (C.D. Cal. 2020), report and recommendation adopted, 2020 WL 1491339 (C.D. Cal. 2020). Spoliation is “the destruction or significant alteration of evidence, or the failure to preserve property for another’s use as evidence, in pending or future litigation.” *Kearney v. Foley & Lardner, LLP*, 590 F.3d 638, 649 (9th Cir.2009); *see also Leon v. IDX Systems Corp.*, 464 F.3d 951, 959, (9th Cir. 2006) (“A party’s destruction of evidence qualifies as willful spoliation if the party has ‘some notice that the documents were potentially relevant to the litigation before they were destroyed.’”).

1 dangers which existed within the COUNTY Jails through the long history of in-
2 custody deaths; the record-breaking amount of fentanyl overdoses throughout all
3 COUNTY Jails; the federal class action *Quinton Gray, et al. v. County of Riverside*,
4 case number 13-0444 VAP (OPx) (C.D. Cal.) targeting Defendant RIVERSIDE
5 COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT's custody, medical and mental health staff's
6 deliberate indifference towards the safety and protection of inmates; the warnings
7 from the neutrally-selected experts regarding failures amounting to constitutional
8 violations; a Consent Decree directing Defendant RIVERSIDE COUNTY
9 SHERIFF's DEPARTMENT to implement a Remedial Plan to meet the minimum
10 level of health care necessary to fulfill its obligations under the Eighth and Fourteenth
11 Amendments; and through a Settlement Agreement which the COUNTY voluntarily
12 entered into requiring that Defendant RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S
13 DEPARTMENT remedy all of the deficiencies in healthcare and disability
14 accommodations alleged in the *Gray* class action complaint.

15 85. Despite this long history of complete disregard to inmate safety and
16 protection, Defendants SHERIFF CHAD BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES
17 KRACHMER, and DAVID HOLM have deliberately failed to take even modest
18 actions to prevent in-custody deaths at the COUNTY Jails which have for a very long
19 time been infested with endemic, ongoing and unabated risks of injury or death to
20 inmates.

21 86. The Defendant officers, and each of them, acted with malice and
22 oppression and with a conscious disregard for Plaintiffs' rights, making the individual
23 defendants, including DOES 1-10, liable for punitive damages.

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VIII.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Protect from Harm,

Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

(Survival Action – 42 U.S.C. § 1983)

By Plaintiff Estate of Mario Solis As Against DOES 1 through 10

87. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

88. Defendants COUNTY, RCSD and DOES 1 through 10 were on notice that their deficient policies, procedures, and practices alleged herein created substantial risk of serious harm to an inmate in decedent Mario Solis's position.

89. Each Defendant could have taken action to prevent unnecessary harm to decedent Mario Solis but refused or failed to do so.

90. By policy, procedure, and practice, Defendants COUNTY, RCSD and DOES 1 through 10 deliberately disregarded the hazards and risks posed to persons incarcerated at the CBDC, as alleged above. Defendants failed to take any reasonable steps to mitigate the obvious and well-known risks of harm that was attendant to housing decedent Mario Solis at CBDC.

91. Defendants including SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 also knew that deputies routinely failed to conduct required welfare and safety checks at the COUNTY Jails, including CBDC, and failed to take sufficient actions to correct this problem and ensure that necessary checks were performed.

92. Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO failed to take corrective action, discipline, or remove the command staff at the COUNTY Jails, including CBDC, who, upon information and belief, directed the deputies to falsify safety check logs and violate the COUNTY's safety check policies. Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO ratified their actions, and the practices used under his watch.

1 93. Defendants COUNTY, RCSD and DOES 1 through 10 were on notice
2 that their policies, procedures, and practices for monitoring inmates at the COUNTY
3 Jails, including CBDC, were inadequate and gave rise to a substantial risk of serious
4 harm.

5 94. Defendants including SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO,
6 JAMES KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 failed to properly
7 train and supervise RCSD custody, medical and mental health staff regarding
8 policies, procedures, and practices necessary for the protection of inmates from risks
9 and hazards existing within the COUNTY Jails, including CBDC.

10 95. Defendants including SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO,
11 JAMES KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10's failure to correct
12 their policies, procedures, and practices despite notice of significant and dangerous
13 problems evidences deliberate indifference to the inmates in their care.

14 96. Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES
15 KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 ratified Defendants DOES's
16 actions and inactions amounting to constitutional violations.

17 97. Defendants DOES 1 through 10's failure to conduct the required safety
18 check of decedent Mario Solis's housing unit on the date of his death evidences
19 deliberate indifference to the risk of harm to decedent Mario Solis.

20 98. Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES
21 KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 ratified Defendants DOES's
22 failure to conduct safety checks and falsification of logs.

23 99. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, the civil right
24 of Mario Solis, as protected by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States
25 Constitution were violated. Further, decedent Mario Solis experienced physical pain,
26 severe emotional distress, and mental anguish, as well as loss of his life and other
27 damages alleged herein.

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100. Defendants subjected decedent Mario Solis to their wrongful conduct, depriving Decedent of rights described herein, knowingly, maliciously, and with conscious and reckless disregard for whether the rights and safety of Decedent and others would be violated by their acts and/or omissions.

101. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' acts and/or omissions as set forth above, Decedent, through Plaintiffs herein, sustained injuries and damages.

102. The conduct of Defendants entitles Plaintiff to punitive damages and penalties allowable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and as provided by law. Plaintiff does not seek punitive damages against Defendants COUNTY.

103. Plaintiff is also entitled to reasonable costs and attorneys' fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and other applicable United States and California codes and laws.

IX.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Provide Medical Care,

Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

(Survival Action – 42 U.S.C. § 1983)

By Plaintiff Estate of Mario Solis As Against DOES 1 through 10

104. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

105. By the actions and omissions described above, Defendants DOES 1 through 10, as alleged herein, violated 42 U.S.C. § 1983, depriving decedent Mario Solis, through Plaintiffs herein, of the following clearly established and well-settled constitutional rights protected by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution: Decedent's right to be free from deliberate indifference to Mario Solis's serious medical and mental health needs while in custody as a pretrial detainee as secured by the Fourth and/or Fourteenth Amendments.

106. By the actions and omissions described above, Defendants DOES 1 through 10, as alleged herein, including but not limited to their failure to provide

1 decedent Mario Solis with appropriate emergency medical and mental health care,
2 along with the acts and/or omissions of Defendants in failing to train, supervise,
3 and/or promulgate appropriate policies and procedures to provide emergency medical
4 and mental health care and life saving care to persons in their custody, constituted
5 deliberate indifference to Mario Solis's serious medical and mental health needs,
6 health, and safety.

7 107. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, the civil rights
8 of Mario Solis, as protected by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States
9 Constitution were violated. Further, decedent Mario Solis experienced physical pain,
10 severe emotional distress, and mental anguish, as well as loss of his life and other
11 damages alleged herein.

12 108. Defendants subjected Decedent to their wrongful conduct, depriving
13 Decedent of rights described herein, knowingly, maliciously, and with conscious and
14 reckless disregard for whether the rights and safety of Decedent and others would be
15 violated by their acts and/or omissions.

16 109. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' acts and/or omissions as
17 set forth above, Decedent, through Plaintiff herein, sustained injuries and damages.

18 110. The conduct of Defendants entitles Plaintiff to punitive damages and
19 penalties allowable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and as provided by law. Plaintiff does not
20 seek punitive damages against Defendants COUNTY.

21 111. Plaintiff is also entitled to reasonable costs and attorneys' fees under 42
22 U.S.C. § 1988, and other applicable United States and California codes and laws.

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X.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

**Deprivation of the Right to Familial Relationship with Decedent,
Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution
(42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

By Plaintiff Sara Solis As Against DOES 1 through 10

112. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

113. The aforementioned acts and/or omissions of Defendants DOES 1 through 10 in being deliberately indifferent to decedent Mario Solis's protection, safety, and serious medical and mental health needs, violating decedent Mario Solis's constitutional rights, and their failure to train, supervise, and/or take other appropriate measures to prevent the acts and/or omissions that caused the untimely and wrongful death of Mario Solis deprived Plaintiff SARA SOLIS of her liberty interests in the parent-child relationship in violation of their substantive due process rights as defined by the Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution.

114. All of the acts of Defendants DOES 1 through 10 and the persons involved were done under color of state law.

115. The acts and omissions of each Defendant deprived Plaintiff SARA SOLIS of rights, privileges, and immunities secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including but not limited to the Fourteenth Amendment by, among other things, depriving Plaintiff of her rights to a parent-child relationship with decedent Mario Solis without due process of law by their deliberate indifference in denying Mario Solis protection and safety while incarcerated at CBDC and access to medical care while suffering a medical emergency at CBDC.

116. Defendants DOES 1 through 10 and the other involved agents and employees acted pursuant to expressly adopted official policies or longstanding practices or customs of the COUNTY and RCSD. These include policies and

1 longstanding practices or customs of failing to provide persons in pretrial custody
2 who are experiencing medical emergencies access to medical care as stated above and
3 incorporated herein.

4 117. In addition, the training policies of the COUNTY and RCSD were not
5 adequate to train its deputies, agents and employees to handle the usual and recurring
6 situations with which they must deal with, including but not limited to encounters
7 with individuals in pretrial custody who are experiencing medical emergencies. These
8 Defendants and each of them knew that its failure to adequately train its COUNTY
9 custody, medical and mental health staff, including other agents and employees, to
10 interact with individuals suffering from medical emergencies made it highly
11 predictable that its custody, medical and mental health staff would engage in conduct
12 that would deprive persons such as decedent Mario Solis, and thus Plaintiff SARA
13 SOLIS, of her rights. These Defendants were thus deliberately indifferent to the
14 obvious consequences of their failure to train their deputies, agents and employees
15 adequately.

16 118. Defendants COUNTY and RCSD's official policies and/or longstanding
17 practices or customs, including but not limited to its training policies, caused the
18 deprivation of the constitutional rights of Plaintiff SARA SOLIS and decedent Mario
19 Solis by each individual Defendant's official policies and/or longstanding practices or
20 customs are so closely related to Mario Solis's injuries and death and thus the
21 deprivation of the rights of Plaintiffs as to be the moving force causing those injuries.

22 119. Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO, a final policymaker for the COUNTY
23 and RCSD, ratified the actions and omissions of Defendants DOES 1 through 10, all
24 of whom were custody, medical and mental health staff at the COUNTY Jails,
25 including CBDC, in that he had knowledge of and made a deliberate choice to
26 approve their unlawful acts and omissions.

27 120. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, the civil rights
28 of Mario Solis, as protected by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States

1 Constitution were violated. Further, decedent Mario Solis experienced physical pain,
 2 severe emotional distress, and mental anguish, as well as loss of his life and other
 3 damages alleged herein.

4 121. Defendants subjected Decedent to their wrongful conduct, depriving
 5 Decedent of rights described herein, knowingly, maliciously, and with conscious and
 6 reckless disregard for whether the rights and safety of Decedent and others would be
 7 violated by their acts and/or omissions.

8 122. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' acts and/or omissions as
 9 set forth above, Plaintiffs sustained injuries and damages.

10 123. The conduct of Defendants entitles Plaintiffs to punitive damages and
 11 penalties allowable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and as provided by law. Plaintiffs do not
 12 seek punitive damages against Defendants COUNTY.

13 124. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable costs and attorneys' fees under
 14 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and other applicable United States and California codes and laws.

15 **XI.**

16 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **Municipal Policies, Customs, Practices Causing Constitutional Violations**

18 **(*Monell* - 42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

19 **By Plaintiff Estate of Mario Solis As Against Defendants COUNTY OF** 20 **RIVERSIDE and RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

21 125. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the
 22 preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

23 126. At all times relevant hereto, the COUNTY custody, medical and mental
 24 health staff were required to adhere to and enforce the following policy and
 25 procedures:

- 26 a. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff must consider
 27 suicide prevention as one of the highest priorities of service within the
 28 correctional setting;

- b. All must work together to identify inmates at risk for suicide;
- c. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff will have an outlined program for responding to suicidal individuals;
- d. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff must learn about an inmates' high-risk periods immediately upon admission to a facility;
- e. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff must learn about an inmates' high-risk periods after adjudication, when the inmate is returned to a facility from court;
- f. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff must learn about an inmate's high-risk periods following the receipt of bad news regarding self or family;
- g. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff must learn about an inmates' high-risk periods after suffering from some type or form of humiliation, rejection or abuse;
- h. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff will review information of newly arriving inmates in this institution concerning issues related to suicide;
- i. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff conducting the intake personal screen will be continuously alert to suicidal behavior;
- j. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff will train their staff who work with inmates to recognize verbal and behavioral cues that indicate the potential for suicide;
- k. All COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff who recognize an inmate as being potentially suicidal are to request immediate evaluation of the patient;
- l. All assessments of potentially suicidal inmates are to be conducted by qualified mental health professionals, trained to determine an inmate's level of suicide risk;

- m. Inmates who have been determined to be suicidal should be placed/housed according to institutional policy and procedures for the monitoring of such individuals within the correctional setting;
- n. Regular documented supervision should be maintained;
- o. Inmates who have been determined to be suicidal should be placed/bound in the appropriate acute mental health housing;
- p. Suicidal inmates should not be housed alone, or left alone, unless constant supervision can be maintained. If constant supervision cannot be provided when needed, the inmate should be housed with another resident or in a dormitory and monitored by video camera by correctional staff;
- q. The rooms should be as nearly suicide proof as possible and constant supervision by a staff member is preferable;
- r. The procedures for referring potentially suicidal inmates and attempted suicides to mental health care providers or facilities should be clearly outlined;
- s. Clear, current and accurate information regarding an inmate must be communicated between health care personnel and correctional personnel pursuant to the procedures of communication;
- t. The intervention plan on how to handle a suicide that is in progress, including appropriate first aid measures, should be clearly outlined;
- u. Procedures for notifying correctional administrators, outside authorities and family members of potential, attempted or completed suicides will be in place;
- v. Procedures for documenting the identification and monitoring of potential or attempted suicides will be detailed, as well as procedures for reporting a completed suicide;

1 w. The suicide plan should specify the procedure for medical administrative
2 review if a suicide does occur; and

3 x. A formal psychiatric/suicide review should take place following all
4 successful suicides, or significant suicide attempts.

5 127. The unconstitutional actions and/or omissions of Defendants DOES 1
6 through 10, as well as other employees or officers employed by or acting on behalf of
7 the Defendants COUNTY and RCSD, on information and belief, were pursuant to the
8 following customs, policies, practices, and/or procedures of Defendants COUNTY
9 and RCSD, stated in the alternative, which were directed, encouraged, allowed,
10 and/or ratified by policymaking officers for Defendant COUNTY and RCSD:

11 a. To deny pretrial detainees and other inmates access to timely,
12 appropriate, competent, and necessary care for serious medical and
13 mental health needs, requiring such inmates in crisis to remain untreated
14 in jail instead of providing for their emergency medical needs;

15 b. To allow and encourage deputies doing regular cell checks on inmates,
16 including inmates housed in safety cells and administrative segregation
17 cells, to fail to document their actual observations of the inmate's
18 condition and status, in violation of the County of Riverside's written
19 policies and state law;

20 c. To allow and encourage inadequate and incompetent medical and mental
21 health care for jail inmates and arrestees;

22 d. To hire, retain and contract for obviously inadequate medical and mental
23 health care for jail inmates and arrestees, including creating financial
24 incentives for custody, medical and mental health staff not to send
25 inmates with emergency medical needs to a hospital;

26 e. To allow, encourage, and require medical and mental health care staff,
27 including licensed vocational nurses and registered nurses, to work
28 outside their legal scope of practice and without appropriate supervision;

- 1 f. To fail to train custody staff that medical and mental health care staff,
2 including licensed vocational nurses, are not competent to assess or
3 decide inmates' medical conditions, medical needs, or whether the
4 inmate should be permitted to remain in the jail versus being sent to a
5 hospital;
- 6 g. To allow, encourage, and require unlicensed, incompetent, inadequately
7 trained and/or inadequately supervised medical and mental health care
8 staff to assess inmates' medical condition, needs, and treatment,
9 including to decide whether or not to provide inmates with necessary
10 emergency care and hospitalization, including psychiatric
11 hospitalization;
- 12 h. To fail to institute, require, and enforce proper and adequate training,
13 supervision, policies, and procedures concerning handling persons in
14 medical and mental health crisis;
- 15 i. To cover up violations of constitutional rights by any or all of the
16 following:
- 17 i. By failing to properly investigate and/or evaluate incidents of
18 violations of rights, including by unconstitutional medical and
19 mental health care at the jail;
- 20 ii. By ignoring and/or failing to properly and adequately investigate
21 and/or investigate and discipline unconstitutional or unlawful
22 conduct by custody, medical and mental health staff;
- 23 iii. By turning a blind eye to custody, medical and mental health staff
24 who direct, aid, and/or assist with the distribution of hazards,
25 including illicit drugs, into the Riverside County jails; and
- 26 iv. By allowing, tolerating, and/or encouraging custody, medical and
27 mental health staff to: fail to file complete and accurate reports;
28 file false reports; make false statements; and/or obstruct or

interfere with investigations of unconstitutional or unlawful
conduct by withholding and/or concealing material information;

- j. To allow, tolerate, and/or encourage a “code of silence” among law enforcement officers, RCSD personnel, custody, medical and mental health staff at the jail whereby an officer or member of the RCSD, medical staff or mental health staff does not provide adverse information against a fellow officer, or member of the RCSD or the medical staff;
- k. To fail to have and enforce necessary, appropriate, and lawful policies, procedures, and training programs to prevent or correct the unconstitutional conduct, customs, and procedures described in subparagraphs (a) through (j) above, with deliberate indifference to the rights and safety of pretrial detainees, such as Decedent, and in the face of an obvious need for such policies, procedures, and training programs.

128. The unconstitutional actions and/or omissions of Defendants DOES 1 through 10, as well as other officers employed by or acting on behalf of the COUNTY and RCSD, on information and belief, were pursuant to the following customs, policies, practices, and/or procedures of the COUNTY and the RCSD, stated in the alternative, which were directed, encouraged, allowed, and/or ratified by policymaking officers for the COUNTY and RCSD, including SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER and DAVID HOLM:

- a. To fail to properly and adequately hire, train, supervise, and monitor custody, medical and mental health staff at the jails;
- b. To fail to use appropriate and generally accepted law enforcement procedures for handling persons in medical and mental health crisis;
- c. To fail to institute, require, and enforce proper and adequate training, supervision, policies, and procedures concerning handling persons in medical and mental health crisis;

- 1 d. To cover up violations of constitutional rights by any or all of the
2 following:
- 3 i. By failing to properly investigate and/or evaluate complaints or
4 incidents of handling of persons in medical and mental health
5 crisis;
- 6 ii. By ignoring and/or failing to properly and adequately investigate
7 and/or discipline unconstitutional or unlawful law enforcement
8 activity; and
- 9 iii. By allowing, tolerating, and/or encouraging law enforcement
10 officers to: fail to file complete and accurate reports; file false
11 reports; make false statements; intimidate, bias and/or “coach”
12 witnesses to give false information and/or to attempt to bolster
13 officers’ stories; and/or obstruct or interfere with investigations of
14 unconstitutional or unlawful law enforcement conduct by
15 withholding and/or concealing material information;
- 16 e. To allow, tolerate, and/or encourage a “code of silence” among law
17 enforcement officers whereby an officer does not provide adverse
18 information against a fellow law enforcement officer;
- 19 f. To allow, tolerate, and/or encourage a “code of silence” among custody,
20 medical and mental health staff at the COUNTY jails whereby custody,
21 medical and mental health staff does not provide adverse information
22 against one another;
- 23 g. To fail to have and enforce necessary, appropriate, and lawful policies,
24 procedures, and training programs to prevent or correct the
25 unconstitutional conduct, customs, and procedures described in
26 subparagraphs (a) through (g) above, with deliberate indifference to the
27 rights and safety of pretrial detainees, such as Decedent, and in the face
28 of an obvious need for such policies, procedures, and training programs.

1 129. Defendants COUNTY and RCSD, through their employees and agents,
2 and through their policy-making supervisors, SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD
3 DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10, failed
4 to properly hire, train, instruct, monitor, supervise, evaluate, investigate, and
5 discipline Defendants DOES 1 through 10, and other COUNTY and RCSD
6 personnel, with deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of decedent Mario
7 Solis, Plaintiffs and others in similar positions, as described above, and therefore,
8 those rights thereby violated.

9 130. The unconstitutional actions and/or omissions of Defendants DOES 1
10 through 10, and other RCSD custody, medical and mental health staff, as described
11 above, were approved, tolerated, and/or ratified by policymaking officers for the
12 COUNTY and RCSD, including Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD
13 DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10.
14 Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the details of this incident
15 have been revealed to the authorized policymakers within the COUNTY and RCSD,
16 and that such policymakers have direct knowledge of the fact that the death of Mario
17 Solis was the result of deliberate indifference to his rights to be protected and safe
18 while in the custody of the COUNTY/RCSD, and his rights to have access to medical
19 care when suffering a medical emergency. Notwithstanding this knowledge, the
20 authorized policymakers within the COUNTY and RCSD have approved of the
21 conduct and decisions of Defendants DOES 1 through 10 in this matter, and have
22 made a deliberate choice to endorse such conduct and decisions, and the basis for
23 them, that resulted in the death of Mario Solis. By so doing, the authorized
24 policymakers within the COUNTY and RCSD have shown affirmative agreement
25 with the individual Defendants' actions and have ratified the unconstitutional acts of
26 the individual Defendants. Furthermore, Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and
27 thereupon allege, that Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO,
28 JAMES KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and DOES 8 through 10, and other policy-

1 making officers for the COUNTY and RCSD were and are aware of a pattern of
2 misconduct and injury caused by COUNTY custody, medical and mental health staff
3 similar to the conduct of Defendants described herein, but failed to discipline
4 culpable custody, medical and mental health staff and failed to institute new
5 procedures and policy within the COUNTY and RCSD.

6 131. The aforementioned customs, policies, practices, and procedures; the
7 failures to properly and adequately hire, train, instruct, monitor, supervise, evaluate,
8 investigate, and discipline; and the unconstitutional orders, approvals, ratification,
9 and toleration of wrongful conduct of Defendants COUNTY and RCSD were a
10 moving force and/or a proximate cause of the deprivations of decedent Mario Solis's
11 clearly established and well-settled constitutional rights in violation of 42 U.S.C. §
12 1983. Defendants subjected decedent Mario Solis to their wrongful conduct,
13 depriving decedent Mario Solis of rights described herein, knowingly, maliciously,
14 and with conscious and reckless disregard for whether the rights and safety of
15 decedent Mario Solis, Plaintiffs and others would be violated by their acts and/or
16 omissions.

17 132. As a direct and proximate result of the unconstitutional actions,
18 omissions, customs, policies, practices, and procedures of Defendants COUNTY and
19 RCSD, as described above, decedent Mario Solis suffered serious injuries and death,
20 Plaintiff is entitled to damages, penalties, costs, and attorneys' fees against
21 Defendants COUNTY and RCSD.

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XII.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**Supervisory Liability Causing Constitutional Violations,
(Failure to Properly Train, Supervise and Discipline, 42 U.S.C. § 1983)
By Plaintiff Estate of Mario Solis As Against Defendants SHERIFF CHAD
BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES KRACHMER, DAVID HOLM and
DOES 7 through 10**

133. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

134. At all material times, SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 had the duty and responsibility to constitutionally hire, train, instruct, monitor, supervise, evaluate, investigate, staff, and discipline the other Defendants employed by their respective agencies in this matter, as well as all employees and agents of the COUNTY and RCSD.

135. Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 failed to properly hire, train, instruct, monitor, supervise, evaluate, investigate, and discipline the respective employees of their agencies, including Defendants DOES 1 through 10, and other COUNTY and RCSD personnel, with deliberate indifference to Plaintiffs', decedent Mario Solis's, and others' constitutional rights, which were thereby violated as described above.

136. As supervisors, Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 each permitted and failed to prevent the unconstitutional acts of other Defendants and individuals under their supervision and control, and failed to properly supervise such individuals, with deliberate indifference to the rights to safety and protections while incarcerated at CBDC and the rights to the serious medical and mental health needs of decedent Mario Solis. Each of these supervising Defendants either directed his or her subordinates in conduct that violated Decedent's rights, or set in motion a series of acts and

omissions by his or her subordinates that the supervisor knew or reasonably should have known would deprive decedent Mario Solis of rights, or knew his or her subordinates were engaging in acts likely to deprive decedent Mario Solis of rights and failed to act to prevent his or her subordinate from engaging in such conduct, or disregarded the consequence of a known or obvious training deficiency that he or she must have known would cause subordinates to violate decedent Mario Solis's rights, and in fact did cause the violation of decedent Mario Solis's rights. (*See*, Ninth Circuit Model Civil Jury Instruction 9.4). Furthermore, each of these supervising Defendants is liable in their failures to intervene in their subordinates' apparent violations of decedent Mario Solis' rights.

137. The unconstitutional customs, policies, practices, and/or procedures of Defendants COUNTY and RCSD, as stated herein, were directed, encouraged, allowed, and/or ratified by policymaking officers for Defendants COUNTY and RCSD, including Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10, respectively, with deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's, decedent Mario Solis's, and others' constitutional rights, which were thereby violated as described above.

138. The unconstitutional actions and/or omissions of Defendants DOES 1 through 10, and other COUNTY and RCSD personnel, as described above, were approved, tolerated, and/or ratified by policymaking officers for the COUNTY and RCSD, including Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the details of this incident have been revealed to Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 and that such Defendant-policymakers have direct knowledge of the fact that the death of decedent Mario Solis was not justified or necessary, but represented deliberate indifference to his rights to be protected and safe while in the COUNTY's custody and his rights to his serious medical and mental health needs, as set forth above. Notwithstanding this

1 knowledge, on information and belief, Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO,
2 KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 have approved and ratified of the
3 conduct and decisions of Defendants DOES 1 through 10 in this matter, and have
4 made a deliberate choice to endorse such conduct and decisions, and the basis for
5 them, that resulted in the death of Mario Solis. By so doing, Defendants SHERIFF
6 BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 have shown
7 affirmative agreement with the individual Defendants' actions and have ratified the
8 unconstitutional acts of the individual Defendants. Furthermore, Plaintiffs are
9 informed and believe, and thereupon allege, that Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO,
10 DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 and other policymaking
11 officers for the COUNTY and RCSD were and are aware of a pattern of misconduct
12 and injury, and a code of silence, caused by COUNTY and RCSD custody, medical
13 and mental health staff personnel similar to the conduct of Defendants described
14 herein, but failed to discipline culpable law enforcement officers and employees and
15 failed to institute new procedures and policy within the COUNTY and RCSD.

16 139. The aforementioned customs, policies, practices, and procedures; the
17 failures to properly and adequately hire, train, instruct, monitor, supervise, evaluate,
18 investigate, and discipline; and the unconstitutional orders, approvals, ratification,
19 and toleration of wrongful conduct of Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO,
20 KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 were a moving force and/or a
21 proximate cause of the deprivations of decedent Mario Solis's clearly established and
22 well-settled constitutional rights in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, as more fully set
23 forth above.

24 140. Defendants subjected decedent Mario Solis to their wrongful conduct,
25 depriving decedent Mario Solis of rights described herein, knowingly, maliciously,
26 and with conscious and reckless disregard for whether the rights and safety of
27 decedent Mario Solis and others would be violated by their acts and/or omissions.
28

141. As a direct and proximate result of the unconstitutional actions, omissions, customs, policies, practices, and procedures of Defendants SHERIFF BIANCO, DELGADO, KRACHMER, HOLM and DOES 8 through 10 as described above, Plaintiff sustained serious and permanent injuries and is entitled to damages, penalties, costs, and attorneys' fees.

XIII.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence – Wrongful Death

Plaintiff Sara Solis As Against All Defendants

142. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

143. At all times, Defendants DOES 1 through 10 owed Plaintiffs and decedent Mario Solis the duty to act with due care in the execution and enforcement of any right, law, or legal obligation.

144. At all times, these Defendants owed Plaintiffs and decedent Mario Solis the duty to act with reasonable care.

145. These general duties of reasonable care and due care owed to Plaintiffs and decedent Mario Solis by these Defendants include but are not limited to the following specific obligations:

- a. To summon, or transport Decedent to, necessary and appropriate emergency medical and mental health care;
- b. To refrain from unreasonably creating danger or increasing Decedent's risk of harm;
- c. To use generally accepted law enforcement procedures and tactics that are reasonable and appropriate for Decedent's status as a person in medical and mental health crisis with serious medical and mental health needs;

- d. To conduct state mandated safety and welfare checks of inmates in the custody of the COUNTY Jails;
- e. To refrain from abusing their authority granted them by law; and
- f. To refrain from violating Plaintiffs' and Decedent's rights as guaranteed by the United States and California Constitutions, as set forth above, and as otherwise protected by law.

146. Defendants DOES 1 through 10, through their acts and omissions, breached each and every one of the aforementioned duties owed to Plaintiffs and decedent Mario Solis.

147. Defendants COUNTY and RCSD are vicariously liable for the violations of state law and conduct of their officers, deputies, employees, and agents, including individual named defendants, under California Government Code § 815.2.

148. As a direct and proximate result of these Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs and decedent Mario Solis sustained injuries and damages, and against each and every Defendant named in this cause of action in their individual capacities are entitled to relief, including punitive damages against such individual Defendants.

XIV.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence – Medical Malpractice

Plaintiff Estate of Mario Solis As Against All Defendants

149. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

150. Decedent Mario Solis was under the care and treatment of Defendants DOES 1 through 10, all of whom were COUNTY medical staff assigned to the COUNTY Jails, including CBDC, who were required to examine, treat, monitor, prescribe for and care for him and to provide him with medical attention when he suffered a medical emergency. These Defendants, acting within the scope and course of their employment with Defendants COUNTY and RCSD, negligently, carelessly

1 and unskillfully cared for, attended, handled, controlled; failed to monitor and follow-
2 up; abandoned; failed to classify, failed to appropriately diagnose and/or refer
3 decedent Mario Solis to specialist medical care providers; negligently failed to
4 provide physician care; negligently failed to provide psychiatry care; carelessly
5 failed to detect, monitor, and follow-up with his condition; and negligently, carelessly
6 and unskillfully failed to possess and exercise that degree of skill and knowledge
7 ordinarily possessed and exercised by others in the same profession and in the same
8 locality as Defendants for the benefit of their patient and dependent pre-trial detainee
9 Mario Solis.

10 151. Defendant supervisors and each of them failed to supervise, train and
11 monitor their subordinates, to maintain proper supervision, classification and staffing,
12 to timely provide decedent Mario Solis emergency medical and mental health care,
13 failed to provide adequate and competent staffing, and to ensure the care and
14 treatment ordered for decedent Mario Solis was provided.

15 152. As a direct and legal result of the aforesaid negligence and carelessness
16 of Defendants' actions and omissions, Plaintiffs sustained injuries and damages, and
17 against these Defendants, and each of them, are entitled to compensatory damages
18 and as applicable to this claim for Medical Negligence, to be proven at time of trial.

19 153. Defendants COUNTY and RCSD are vicariously liable for the violations
20 of state law and conduct of their officers, deputies, employees, and agents, including
21 individual named defendants, under California Government Code § 815.2.

22 **XV.**

23 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **Violation of California Government Code § 845.6**

25 **Plaintiff Estate of Mario Solis As Against All Defendants**

26 154. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein by reference each of the
27 preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

28 ///

155. Defendants DOES 1 through 10 was in need of immediate medical care and treatment, and each failed to take reasonable action to summon immediate medical care and treatment. Each such individual defendant, employed by and acting within the course and scope of his/her employment with Defendants COUNTY and RCSD, knowing and/or having reason to know of decedent Mario Solis's need for immediate medical care and treatment, failed to take reasonable action to summon such care and treatment in violation of California Government Code § 845.6.

156. Defendants COUNTY and RCSD are vicariously liable for the violations of state law and conduct of their officers, deputies, employees, and agents, including individual named defendants, under California Government Code § 815.2.

157. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts of these Defendants, decedent Mario Solis was injured as set forth above, and their losses entitle Plaintiff to all damages allowable under California law. Plaintiff sustained serious and permanent injuries and is entitled to damages, penalties, costs, and attorney fees under California law, including punitive damages against these individual Defendants.

XVI.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California Civil Code §52.1 (Tom Bane Act)

Plaintiff Estate of Mario Solis As Against All Defendants

158. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

159. Plaintiff brings the claims in this cause of action as a survival claim permissible under California law, including Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 377.20 *et. seq.*

160. By their acts, omissions, customs, and policies, Defendants, each acting in concert/conspiracy, as described above, while decedent Mario Solis was in custody, and by threat, intimidation, and/or coercion, interfered with, attempted to

1 interfere with, and violated Mario Solis's rights under California Civil Code § 52.1
2 and under the United States Constitution and California Constitution as follows:

- 3 a. The right to be free from objectively unreasonable treatment and
4 deliberate indifference to Decedent's serious medical needs while in
5 custody as a pretrial detainee as secured by the Fourth and/or Fourteenth
6 Amendments to the United States Constitution and by California
7 Constitution, Article 1, §§ 7 and 13;
- 8 b. The right for the familial association to be free from government
9 interference as secured by the Fourteenth Amendments to the United
10 States Constitution;
- 11 c. The right to enjoy and defend life and liberty; acquire, possess, and
12 protect property; and pursue and obtain safety, happiness, and privacy,
13 as secured by the California Constitution, Article 1, § 1; and
- 14 d. The right to emergency medical and mental health care as required by
15 California Government Code §845.6.

16 161. Defendants' violations of decedent Mario Solis's due process rights with
17 deliberate indifference, in and of themselves constitute violations of the Bane Act.¹²³
18 Alternatively, separate from, and above and beyond, Defendants' attempted
19 interference, interference with, and violation of Mario Solis's rights as described
20 above, Defendants violated Mario Solis's rights by the following conduct constituting
21 threat, intimidation, or coercion:

- 22 a. With deliberate indifference to Decedent's serious medical and mental
23 health needs, suffering, and risk of grave harm including death,
24 depriving Decedent of necessary, life-saving care for his medical needs;

25 ²³ See *Atayde v. Napa State Hosp.*, No. 1:16-cv-00398-DAD-SAB, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 126639,
26 at *23 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 16, 2016) (citing *M.H. v. Cty. of Alameda*, 90 F. Supp. 3d 889, 899 (N.D.
27 Cal. 2013); see also, *Cornell v. City and County of San Francisco*, Nos. A141016, A142147, 2017
28 Cal. App. LEXIS 1011 at *58, f.n. 32 (Cal. Ct. App. Nov. 16, 2017) (approving *M.H.*, supra.);
Reese v. County of Sacramento, 888 F.3d 1030, 1043-44 (9th Cir. 2018) (following *Cornell*);
Rodriguez v. County of L.A., 891 F.3d 776, 799, 802 (9th Cir. 2018) (following *Cornell*).

- b. With deliberate indifference to hazards that posed a risk to pretrial detainees, such as Decedent;
- c. Subjecting Decedent to ongoing violations of his rights to prompt care for his serious medical and mental health needs over days, causing immense and needless suffering, intimidation, coercion, and threats to his life and well-being;
- d. Deliberately contracting for and causing the provision of inadequate and incompetent medical health care to Riverside County jail detainees and inmates;
- e. Requiring medical and mental health staff to work outside their scope of practice, and conduct assessments, triage, and make medical and housing decisions for patients, including Decedent, they are not competent to make; and
- f. Instituting and maintaining the unconstitutional customs, policies, and practices described herein, when it was obvious that in doing so, individuals such as Decedent would be subjected to violence, threat, intimidation, coercion, and ongoing violations of rights as Decedent was here.

162. The threat, intimidation, and coercion described herein were not necessary or inherent to Defendants' violation of decedent Mario Solis's rights, or to any legitimate and lawful jail or law enforcement activity.

163. Further, all of Defendants' violations of duties and rights, and coercive conduct, described herein were volitional acts; none was accidental or merely negligent.

164. Further, each Defendant violated decedent Mario Solis's rights reckless disregard and with the specific intent and purpose to deprive him of his enjoyment of those rights and of the interests protected by those rights.

///

- 1 b. Did they ever demand that their family members not commit crimes in
2 the first place?
- 3 c. Did their parents ever demand they take responsibility for their own
4 actions?
- 5 d. Do they ever think they played a huge part in the situation they find
6 themselves in, other than the personal actions of their deceased loved
7 one?

8 170. Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO posted these comments on the public
9 form with the intent to harass and cause Plaintiff Sara Solis mental anguish and
10 turmoil. He knew that given the public forum nature of the Facebook post that the
11 family of Mario Solis, including the present Plaintiffs, would read said harassing and
12 offensive comments and that his actions would cause them great
13 mental/psychological pain and anguish. Notwithstanding, SHERIFF BIANCO
14 deliberately engaged in this harassing and confrontational behavior.

15 171. It was his intention to cause them great mental/psychological pain and
16 anguish, and he did so through these actions.

17 172. Plaintiff Sara Solis seek compensatory damages incurred as a proximate
18 result of Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO's deliberate and intentional misconduct.
19 Plaintiffs have suffered great emotional harm and will continue to suffer such harm in
20 the future as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts or omissions by
21 Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO.

22 173. The acts or omissions of Defendant SHERIFF CHAD BIANCO, as
23 alleged above were willful, wanton, malicious, oppressive, and outrageous, and
24 justify the awarding of exemplary and punitive damages against him.

25 174. Defendant COUNTY is vicariously liable for the violations of state law
26 and conduct of its officers, deputies, employees, and agents, including individual
27 named defendants, under California Government Code § 815.2.

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175. As a direct and proximate result of these Defendant SHERIFF BIANCO's intentional conduct, Plaintiff Sara Solis sustained injuries and damages, and against each and every Defendant named in this cause of action in their individual capacities are entitled to relief, including punitive damages against such individual Defendants.

XVIII.

ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Declaratory Relief

(28 U.S.C § 2201)

Plaintiffs As Against All Defendants

176. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each of the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, and any subsequent paragraphs.

177. There is an actual controversy between Plaintiffs and Defendants concerning their respective rights and duties in that Plaintiffs contend that the acts of Defendants, as described herein, are in violation of federal law, and Defendants contend in all aspects to the contrary.

178. Plaintiffs are entitled to a legal declaration of their rights and Defendants' obligations under the applicable laws as alleged in this Complaint.

XIX.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully requests that the Court enter a judgment as follows:

- A. Wrongful death of Mario Solis, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 377.60 et. seq.;
- B. Loss of support and familial relationships, including loss of love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, services, solace, and moral support, pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 377.60 et. seq.;

- 1 C. Mario Solis's coroner's fees, funeral and burial expenses, pursuant to
- 2 Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 377.20 et. seq.;
- 3 D. Violation of Mario Solis's constitutional rights, pursuant to Cal. Code of
- 4 Civ. Proc. § 377.20 et. seq. and federal civil rights law;
- 5 E. Mario Solis's loss of life, pursuant to federal civil rights law;
- 6 F. Mario Solis's conscious pain, suffering, and disfigurement, pursuant to
- 7 federal civil rights law;
- 8 G. General Damages, including wrongful death and survival damages, in
- 9 excess of the mandatory amount for jurisdiction in the Unlimited
- 10 Superior Court;
- 11 H. Non-Economic Damages, including wrongful death and survival
- 12 damages, according to proof plus all further and proper relief;
- 13 I. Punitive damages as to individual peace officer defendants;
- 14 J. Attorney's fees pursuant to State Law (Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 1021.5 &
- 15 private attorney general doctrine);
- 16 K. Penalties under the Tom Bane Act;
- 17 L. Interest; and

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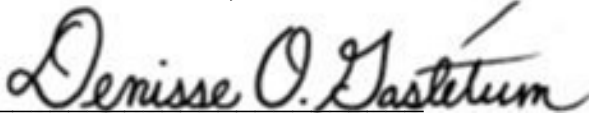
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1 M. All other damages, penalties, costs, interest, and attorneys' fees as
2 allowed by 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988; California Code of Civil
3 Procedure §§ 377.20 et seq., 377.60 et seq., and 1021.5; California Civil
4 Code §§ 52 et seq., 52.1; and as otherwise may be allowed by California
5 and/or federal law.


6
7 Dated: May 30, 2023

GASTÉLUM LAW, APC

8 By: 
9 Denisse O. Gastélum, Esq.
10 Attorneys for Plaintiffs,
11 ESTATE OF MARIO SOLIS, by and through
12 successor in interest, Sara Solis; SARA SOLIS,
13 individually

14 Dated: May 30, 2023

THE LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTIAN CONTRERAS
A Professional Law Corporation

15
16 By: 
17 Christian Contreras, Esq.
18 Attorneys for Plaintiffs,
19 ESTATE OF MARIO SOLIS, by and through
20 successor in interest, Sara Solis; SARA SOLIS,
21 individually
22
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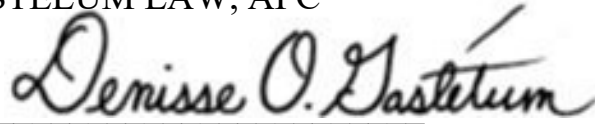
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, ESTATE OF MARIO SOLIS, by and through successor in interest, Sara Solis; and SARA SOLIS, individually, hereby make a demand for a jury trial in this action.

Dated: May 30, 2023

GASTÉLUM LAW, APC

By:



Denisse O. Gastelum, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs,

ESTATE OF MARIO SOLIS, by and through
successor in interest, Sara Solis; SARA SOLIS,
individually

Dated: May 30, 2023

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